Genetic Engineering Approval Committee

477. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee constituted by Government, its mandate and meetings held since inception, particularly on evolving foreign trade policy regarding genetically modified (GM) products;

(b) whether declaration by importers about GM products in any consignment is mandatory;

(c) the details thereof;

(d) how detection of GM products, if imported undeclared in any consignment by any importer, is carried out and penalty therefore;

(e) the details of testing facilities, if any, for technical analysis of GM products with a view to identify and isolate the harmful varieties; and

(f) instances where harmful varieties were to detected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) has been constituted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests under Rule 4 of Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Imports Export and Storage of Hazardous Microorganisms/ Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells 1989 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The mandate of the GEAC is to accord environmental clearance for genetically modified products. The GEAC has held 69 meetings since inception. The GEAC has no role to play in evolving the foreign trade policy.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir, As per conditions no. 18 (d) of Chapter 1A of the ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import Item notified by Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), declaration by importers about GM products is mandatory.

(d) The guidelines for testing of the food products at the point of entry are notified under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. The Customs Authorities have been empowered to draw samples and send it for testing to any of the laboratories for further verification regarding the presence of DNA material. If undeclared consignments contain GM material, the importer is liable to penal action under Foreign Trade

(Development and Regulation) Act, 1992.

(e) The presence or absence of different transgenic DNA/proteins in the food samples can be ascertained at the laboratories existing at Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore; National Bureau of Plant Genetic Research (NBPGR), New Delhi; Centre for DNA Fingerprinting & Diagnostics, Hyderabad; Industrial Toxicological Research Institute (ITRC), Lucknow and National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), Hyderabad.

(f) No report on instances where farmful varieties were detected have come to the notice of the Government.

Coastal Zone Management Authority in Goa

478. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXAMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a Coastal Zone Management Authority functioning in Goa;

(b) if so, since when the authority is functioning;

(c) the important policy decisions taken by the authority since the year it was constituted;

(d) whether the authority has prepared any Coastal Zone Management Plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Goa State Coastal Zone Management Authority has been functioning since November, 1998.

(c) The Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority has been constituted under Section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for taking specific measures for protecting and improving the quality of coastal environment and preventing and controlling environmental pollution in the coastal areas in Goa, in accordance, with the provisions under the Environment (Protection) At, 1986. As such no independent policy decisions are taken by the Authority.

(d) The Goa State Coastal Zone Management Plan was submitted by Government of Goa in the year 1996 which was approved by the